

#### Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 51 May 2004 No. 5

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Calendar			
Sat., May 22	Spring Fair, GPES, 10 am–3 pm	Mon., June 14	Town Council meeting, Town
Sat., May 29	Swimming pool opens, 10 am;		Hall, 8 pm
	pool picnic, 5 pm	Tues., June 15	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30
Mon., May 31	Memorial Day; no trash pickup		pm (last one until fall); <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Fri., June 4	Grad. names and summer dates for June <i>Bugle</i> due	Fri., June 18	Film society, Town Hall, 8 pm (see p 8)
Sat., June 5	Farmer's Market, next to PO	Sun., June 20	Father's Day

#### **Town Council Notes**

I felt a stirring of my violent paranoid tendencies a couple of weeks ago when I gazed out my window and saw three strange men hammering a stick with a yellow tape on it in front of my house. I got ready to run out and ask just what the hell they thought they were doing, when I decided to hold off.

After a couple of days, the men came back, pulled the stick up, dug a big hole, and planted a beautiful weeping cherry tree.

There's a lesson in this for all Garrett Parkers. Instead of physically attacking anyone doing anything untoward near your house, wait a bit. They might be emissaries from the reinvigorated Arboretum Committee (now at full membership, by the way, with Matthew Nau and Fredrika Moser the final appointees), which, Councilmember Keller explained at the last Town Council meeting

on Monday, May 10, is in the process of planting 20 or so trees throughout the town.

But before I get to arboreal details, the big news at the meeting was the debut of our new mayor, Carolyn Shawaker. "I'm very honored to be elected the new mayor of this town," Mayor Shawaker said to the gathering of around 10 citizens and an almost-full Council (Hans Wegner is out of the country). "I'll do my very best to support you and I hope you'll help me as we work together for the town."

The meeting then opened with an announcement by Mary Moyer: We need a theme for this year's Fourth of July—perhaps something related to Penn Place? Clever townspeople are invited to come up with something. Pronto.

In the Mayor's Report, she began by talking about appointing a citizen to the now-vacant

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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P.O. Boxholder Garrett Park, Maryland 20896 (continued from previous page)

Council seat (vacated by the Mayor, that is, when she got promoted). Any citizen who wishes to be considered should let a Councilmember know.

Next, the Mayor wants to schedule a Council retreat. Much chatter ensued among the Councilmembers about dates and times. Very dull if you happened to be a spectator, but it didn't last long, and nothing was decided.

Mayor Shawaker also announced a couple of recent acts of vandalism in town involving damage to cars. She reminded citizens to be especially alert in this high crime season.

One final announcement from the Mayor: Ted Pratt has been appointed town building inspector.

The trees (back to Arboretum news) were from a wholesaler—we piggybacked on Chevy Chase Village's order—and we got larger specimens than we paid for, which is a bit of luck. "But it is now," announced Councilmember Keller ominously, "a race between us and the cicadas. We've got to get netting."

Councilmember Keller also noted that the Arboretum Committee had had a very successful cleanup day in Cambria Park, with an excellent turnout and a lot accomplished.

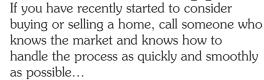
Next, the meeting turned to two requests for variances. One, for a kitchen extension needed for handicapped access, was granted; the other, for a sunroom, was withdrawn after extended discussion. The main message I took from this part of the meeting is that the Council is now getting very serious about making sure that all variance requests are handled according to the letter of the

Margaret Soltan

#### **GIVES**

Watch for volunteers outside the Post Office on the first Saturday of each month (weather permitting). Also, there are envelopes inside the Post Office. Thanks to Rebecca Rawls for her help on Saturday, May 8. We do need more volunteers. Please call Glenda Ingham.

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#### Penn Place Bricks

Be a part of Garrett Park history! Honor a friend, neighbor, or favorite mayor, remember a family member or former Garrett Parker, salute a graduate—or see your own name etched in the Penn Place patio. This is one very worthwhile way you may contribute to a memorable and fun outdoor gathering space.

Full details of the Penn Place Brick Project were in the April *Bugle*. In brief: a 4 by 4 inch brick is \$50, and may contain up to 3 lines of 15 characters each (including spaces). An 8 by 8 inch brick may contain up to 5 lines of 15 characters each. Plans are to install the brick patio this summer, so there is no time to waste! You may send your payment, along with your desired inscription, to the GP Citizens Association Brick Project, P.O. Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Proceeds from the brick project will go toward the purchase of furniture for the Penn Place patio. For further information, contact Jack Mandel by phone or email him. The form also can be found at the Garrett Park website: www.garrettpark.org.

#### Musical(e) Success!

The 9th annual Garrett Park Musicale took place on March 28 this year. It was another rousing success, raising \$609 for the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship Fund. The audience at the Town Hall enjoyed a Sunday afternoon of an eclectic assortment of musical selections, including guitar and banjo playing, the singing of Broadway tunes, Garrett Park songs, opera selections, and classical instrumental music, performed by our talented local musicians of all ages. With the additional donation of \$187 from two Garrett Park Coffeehouse events, the scholarship program has enough funds to provide lessons to a young musician attending GPES in the coming school year.

Our appreciation goes to the Garrett Park Women's Club, the Lunch Bunch, and many individual donors and participants. Thank you very much; we look forward to seeing you next spring.

Megumi (Meme) Lincoln, treasurer

The Garrett Bugle is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the Bugle is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers: Co-presidents: Gene Brantly

Jack Mandel Vice president: Matt Stavish Treasurer: Anne Mizoguchi Secretary: Laura Krupp Bugle staff:

Mary Moyer (Box 98) Barbara Collier (Box 191) Graphic design: Linda Paine

Ads: Mary Moyer (Box 98)
Subscriptions: Jane Salomon (Box 227)

Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted to Mary Moyer, Box 98, or by email to Barbara Collier. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Editors:

#### **Town Administrator Notes**

Town Elections: Many thanks for the fine work of Chief Election Judge Barbara Shidler and Judges Susan Frant and Pat Loeb on Election Day. Thanks also to the candidates and the residents who came out to vote for them. As I wrote last year, an election is a political event as well as part of the governmental process, and there will always be different views on the policies and activities of town government. I hope that all residents of the town feel that they can come to the Town Office, whether for routine business, some information, or a visit to discuss anything related to Garrett Park. Like you, I have my own views, but my job is to serve the Town as a whole. So please, if you need help or information, stop by the Town Hall. We will be glad to see you.

Garrett Park Building Permits: We are well into the building season, and I would like to remind you all to please check with the Town Office to find out if your project needs a Garrett Park permit. A town permit is required to demolish any building larger than 400 square feet. Also, a Garrett Park building permit is required whenever a new structure is to be built, including a new house, shed, garage, or similar structure, or when the size of a house is proposed to be increased with an addition, a deck, a porch, or the like. The town is concerned only with the relationship of the proposed construction to the size of the lot and its setback from the lot's boundary. The town also requires a permit for driveway construction or repair. A town building permit should be applied for before you apply for a Montgomery County building permit.

**Montgomery County Building Permits:** 

Montgomery County requires building permits for any structure above ground level (not patios or driveways) including sheds, garages, decks, fences, etc. A county permit is also required for any alteration to a structure (other than ordinary repair or maintenance) and for demolition. The county is concerned with zoning, health and safety, plumbing, structural soundness, electrical installations, and the like. For more information, contact the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-6300.

Garrett Park Nursery School is seeking an energetic and creative individual to teach 3-year-olds enrolled in our nursery school program!

- Parent co-operative nursery school.
- Approximately 12 hours per week, Monday,
   Wednesday, & Thursday from 9 am to 11:30 am.
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- Early childhood education background and/or teaching experience in an early childhood setting preferred.

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Historic Area Building Permits: A Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) is required from the county for alterations and new construction on particular properties that have been designated as historic or are within the historic area of Garrett Park, as defined by Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission is concerned with the preservation of the appearance of these structures. When an HAWP is required, it must be obtained before a Montgomery County building permit application will be processed. To find out if your home requires an HAWP, contact the MD National Capital Park and Planning Commission at 301-495-4600.

As always, the Town Office will assist you in any way we can. I will be away on vacation in the Isle of Man from May 29 to June 16. Laura Krupp will hold the fort while I am away. I am sure things will carry on smoothly in my absence.

Ted Pratt Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer.

#### **GPES**

The school is gearing up for all the final activities that happen as the year ends. The Spring Fair is slated for May 22 from 10 am to 3 pm. Even in rain this can be a fun family activity. It's open to all townspeople, so drop on in.

Musically, you are invited to attend the evening performances of the chorus at 7:30 pm on May 24, and the strings and band at 7:30 pm on May 26. All three groups have been practicing hard and are in fine form.

Any children in town who do not attend GPES but will be attending next fall need to get the paperwork started for registration. The office will be closed for part of July so the secretaries can get a much-needed vacation. Call the office (301-929-2170) for information. School will close this year on June 15 as originally planned.

Visit Garrett Park's Website:

www.garrettpark.org/



#### **Services for Seniors**

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#### Letter to the Editor

#### In Appreciation

To all the citizens of Garrett Park, and especially those of you who made my and Manny's time here so special: Thank you for your participation in our celebration of Manny's joyful days on this earth and of her many struggles that she overcame so often with grace and dignity. Thanks also for your generous contributions to Manny's favorite charities, the Montgomery County Hospice and the "Make-a-Wish" Foundation. She was generous throughout her life with her time, her treasure, and herself. She treasured every moment and was always aware of the needs of others and gave unselfishly to fulfill them. It is no wonder that we all loved and appreciated this lovely lady. An acquaintance has donated a generous sum in Manny's name to the upcoming World Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature, to be held at the Smithsonian International Gallery, June 19 to July 12. I am chair of this exhibition, which will be the "largest miniature fine art" exhibition ever held. Many of the participants have expressed their condolences and their love for this valiant lady.

Manny's Wood has become such a special place for me and for those who knew her well. I try to get there and contemplate my navel and the memories of being with her as often as I can. It is a comfort to have been a part of her life and to feel her everlasting love. It fills me with great comfort to be able to say to the citizens of Garrett Park, thank you, thank you, thank you!

John A. Thompson

#### Lead and the Toxic Circle of Chlorine

Lead plumbing pipes, in use since Roman times, were popularized in the D.C. area in the late 1800's and widely used during World War II, when copper was in short supply. The recent increased use of chloramines to disinfect water may enhance release of lead through greater corrosion of lead piping (chloramines are used in D.C. and elsewhere instead of pure chlorine, to reduce cancer-causing chlorine byproducts).

Although chlorine is effective at killing many bacteria in our water, it has a number of down sides. Chlorine gas, which is highly toxic in concentrated form, is a safety hazard to store and transport. A worst-case scenario was depicted in a recent LA Times story: if one 90-ton tank of chlorine exploded in Washington, D.C., an estimated 2.4 million people would be put at risk by a poisonous cloud covering a 14-mile radius. Projected deaths could occur at a rate of 100 per second. (A coalition led by Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club, and Greenpeace is currently petitioning the D.C. City Council to ban the transport of ultra-hazardous cargoes such as chlorine through the city.) In addition, chlorine creates "chlorination byproducts" that may cause cancer, miscarriages, and birth defects. These health concerns have led the

EPA to gradually reduce allowable levels of these chemicals in our water.

Chlorine may also be hazardous to produce. Some of the chlorine gas used to disinfect drinking water is still manufactured in antiquated mercury-cell chlor-alkali plants, through a process that uses liquid mercury. The Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges that mercury is lost at several stages and cannot be accounted for; EPA simply calls the missing mercury an "enigma."

Moving to nontoxic, nonchlorine methods of primary water disinfection, such as ultraviolet light treatment, would significantly reduce mercury pollution, reduce the need for hazardous storage and transport of chlorine gas, and could reduce the corrosion and release of lead from lead plumbing into drinking water.

There are several steps you can take to reduce lead in your home tap water. A number of places will test water for lead for a reasonable price (less than \$25; for more information, see www.leadtesting.org). The use of a tap water mechanical or carbon filtration system, such as those that fit directly on the tap, can remove significant amounts of lead. Be sure that the type you purchase claims to remove lead and is independently certified to ANSI/NSF Standard No. 53—see www.nsf.org/consumer for more info.

If any Garrett Park residents have their water or soil tested for lead, please let me know, so we can create a "lead profile" for Garrett Park. My own water tested lead-free.

Jennifer Sass Garrett Park resident and scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council

#### **Bake Sale Raises Over \$800**

Thank you again to all who baked and helped sell at Garrett Park's "Bake Back the White House" event held on Saturday, April 17. It was just one of thousands of bake sales organized to raise money for MoveOn PAC's campaign. Though the event lasted only four hours, it sold eight card tables full of yummy baked goods (such as "Bush League" brownies) and raised a whopping \$800 plus. Within one week, I had 30 to 35 bakers volunteer, not only from Garrett Park and the Estates, but as far away as Darnestown, Olney, and Germantown. The inspiration for the event was that while George Bush raises money mostly from wealthy donors, regular Americans could demonstrate broad-based grassroots support for both the sponsoring organization and John Kerry. Nationally, it was estimated that 500,000 volunteers participated, more than \$750,000 was raised, and nearly 5,000 voters were registered.

See—it really was a piece of cake!

Rana Koll-Mandel



Our Cambria Park Day, Sunday, May 2, was a total success with help from Council liaison Chris Keller and the

entire Arboretum Committee, including spouses, children, and well-behaved dogs. Many thanks to hard-working residents, who include Ed Lincoln, Hans Wegner, Ginger Mayhew, our new mayor and her husband Ed Shawaker, plus others too numerous to list. Also at Cambria Park, we welcomed our newest committee members, Matthew Nau of 11218 Kenilworth Avenue and Fredrika Moser of 11312 Rokeby Avenue.

Matthew Nau has lived in Garrett Park for 5 years, with wife Robin Daly and two daughters. He earned a BS in forestry from West Virginia University in 1979 and works for LaFarge N.A. near Dulles. Fredrika Moser also has resided here for 5 years, with husband Rick Murnane and daughter. "Fred" Moser is Assistant Director of Research for the Maryland Sea Grant College, University of Maryland. Both these new members bring a wealth of experience to add new talents

and depth to our town Arboretum Committee activities. For instance, thanks to Fred Moser, when you visit www.garrettpark.org and click on the link, "The Cicadas Are Coming," you can download a pdf file and get loads of information on the 17 year cicadas.

Our committee strives to develop interest in the beauty and diversity of trees on individual residents' property, along the town street rights-of-way, around our public buildings, and in our parks and recreation areas. We look for positive contributions of volunteer effort from residents to continue to enhance our town as a walking Arboretum. This is where a small portion of your town taxes is spent each year.

In the June *Bugle*, you should look for a list that will help you locate, identify, and appreciate the 18 to 20 new tree plantings made throughout Garrett Park. Where possible, these species have been carefully chosen to enhance the value of your streetscape well into the future.

#### What Is "Lunch Bunch"?

It is a pleasant time for Garrett Park residents (new, old, women, men) to gather at the Town Hall the second Tuesday of each month to share lunch and a glass of wine or juice.

Each month two people serve as hosts. They set up and decorate tables (already in place), put out dishes, glasses, cups and saucers, silverware, etc., and after the meal, clear the tables and fill the dishwasher. Someone else will later put its contents away!

Is the Lunch Bunch a new idea? No, no! It began in 1978–79 when ladies of the Women's Club started it for themselves. They soon become more ecumenical. The *Bugle* of November 1979 read, "Both sexes and all ages are invited to the Town Hall at noon for the first in a series of monthly potluck luncheons sponsored by the Women's Club..." The *Bugle* of March 1980 stated: "Although men were a little shy about coming when the Lunch Bunch began, many of them are now regulars."

These "regulars" have continued coming, so that in 2004 we have 24 to 30 participants each month! Please note that many of our original members are getting older and are no longer able to serve as hosts. See the related invitation on this page and join us at the Town Hall the second Tuesday of the month at 12:30 pm.

Millie Mader

### Special Invitation

To the men and women of Garrett Park *under* the age of 65!

You are cordially invited to a totally *Free Lunch* at the Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, June 8, at the Town Hall at 12:30 pm. Come and have fun.

RSVP to Kathleen Gagnon or Millie Mader

## Once upon a time everything was handcrafted.

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#### **Summer Jobs List**

name (age) phone baby pet lawn light yard (301) sitting sitting mowing work

[see print version]

## Needed for Next *Bugle*

We need the names of any residents who have graduated from high school, college, or other institutions of higher learning this year to put into our next issue. From all appearances, this seems to be a lean year for college graduates; so far there is only one. We also need to have any dates you may wish to include on the calendar for the summer months, since the June issue of the *Bugle* will be the last to come out until September 20, 2003. Get in touch with Mary Moyer (933-5764 or Box 98) by June 4 with either

#### **Bugle Notes...Sweet and Sour**

- Our good citizens deemed it not necessary to vote in the town election this year—even with a contested election! Only 160 people voted out of 742 qualified voters. Only one was rejected this year (what a difference from last year, when 33 were rejected).
- Marguerite Murray has relocated to 8900 Camfield Drive in Alexandria, Virginia. She would like to keep in touch, so you can give her a call at 703-780-1153.
- ▶ Bob Dickey, who lived on Weymouth for 37 years, passed away early Sunday morning, May 9. A memorial service was held at Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington, on Thursday, May 13.
- Seen driving around town in a new vehicle: Butch Frost at the steering wheel (?) of a borrowed backhoe to dig holes for new trees. Following him down Kenilworth was a hoot.
- Does anyone need bamboo stakes for their garden? Mary Moyer has an abundance of them already cut down. If you want any, come get them (11212 Kenilworth).
- Now that son Jason has graduated, parents James and Jane Meyersburg have moved to Naples, Florida. They will spend the summer months in Vermont as usual.
- ▶ Big doings at the McLaughlin residence on Weymouth on April 30. Donal McLaughlin and Susan Alexander came in contact with

- some leaking muriatic acid. After a street full of haz-mat vehicles, fire engines, and rescue squads were in place, our two residents were taken to the hospital as a precaution, and the crews mopped up the spill. What a way to get a house clean!
- Phil and Shirley Weiner, who owned and operated the Garrett Park Market during the 1960's and 1970's, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 4. All their children attended Garrett Park Elementary, and Garrett Park is still home to many of their lifelong friends. The Weiners now live in Las Vegas. Best wishes were offered by children Marlene and husband Jerry Deaton, Michael and wife Lynn, Mark and wife Flo, Mitchell and wife Freddi, and Marcia and husband Erik Cohen, along with six grandchildren.

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#### **Obituaries**

#### Mary Alice "Mollie" Fitzpatrick

Mollie Fitzpatrick, 84, died peacefully on May 7 at an assisted living facility in Columbia, South Carolina. She suffered from kidney disease. A memorial service will be held at the Garrett Park Town Hall in early September, on a date that will be announced later.

Mollie and her husband George ("Fitz") moved into Garrett Park in 1956. Mollie was involved in the PTA, led Girl Scout troops, enjoyed cooking, and made her children's clothes. She also supported George's activities as Mayor and Councilmember in Garrett Park. (George died in 1997.)

Born in Philadelphia, Mollie worked as a lab technician as a young woman and married George in 1943. The two of them lived in Panama for several years while he was with the State Department, settling in the Washington area in 1948. In 1996 Mollie retired from Kaiser Permanente, after working for 20 years as a medical records clerk. She left Garrett Park in 2001.

She is survived by her three children, George, Jr., of Lake Oswego, Oregon, Frances Megan Thompson of Monrovia, and Marla Schoolmeester of Columbia, South Carolina; a sister; six grand-children; and a great-grandson.



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#### Marian Alvord Flanders Sullivan

Although she had many names, she only needed one: Manny. A Garrett Park resident since 1966, Manny brought her gardening, political and social skills to the right place. Manny had wonderful stories of growing up in Brookville and Cleveland Park as the eldest daughter of native Washingtonians, Gladys and Elijah (Junie) Alvord III

She attended Wilson High in DC, received her BA in zoology from George Washington University, and married classmate Robert (Bob) Lee Flanders in 1948. They moved to Kensington, and her three children, Bob, Tom, and Kate, remember her building gardens all over the yard: flower gardens, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, strawberries—she truly had a green thumb. This qualification made her a natural for the Arboretum Committee here in town.

When she wasn't gardening, Manny was working for the local chapter of the Democratic Party. At one point she was the chairman of our precinct. "She was a consummate liberal," Bob said, "and taught us that we are all created equal regardless of race, creed, or color." She served as a co-chair for the local Democratic precinct with Art Heyman.

She served two terms as President of the Women's Club and participated in many town activities.

In 1981, Manny lost her first husband, Bob, to lung cancer while fighting a battle with breast cancer herself. She went on to help other breast cancer survivors through the Reach to Recovery Organization.

She met George (Sulli) Sullivan, a fellow Garrett Parker, and they were married in 1983. Tragedy struck again, though, and Sulli too died of lung cancer in 1989.

In 1991, she was introduced to a local artist, John Allen Thompson. John and Manny became inseparable. Talented, handsome, and funny too, John was part of the family and by Manny's side always.

Manny's three-year fight with throat cancer may have prevented her from getting to know some of Garrett Park's newer neighbors, but let me tell you, she had style. Keeping up her appearance was part of her character. She had her makeup on within hours of awaking from several cancer operations. She didn't dwell on the negative and strived to maintain a reasonable lifestyle despite her condition. She had an ever-present optimistic attitude, a fine intellect, an open mind, and nothing less than astounding courage and resilience. We take great pride and pleasure in visiting "Manny's Wood," the pocket park created by her wonderful neighbors.

Barbara Flanders

#### Gas Pain

This past winter, while walking near my house on the corner of Clyde and Rokeby, a neighbor smelled gas and let me know. I called Washington Gas, and the company immediately dispatched an employee to check. The street was covered with snow and ice, and although both the gas man and I could smell gas, his handheld measuring device showed nothing abnormal. He offered a couple of dubious suggestions on what might be causing the odor. He further assured me that the situation was not dangerous and that nothing could be done until the snow and ice had melted. I wondered about my bill. Oh, don't worry about that, he said. The gas that's not leaking is leaking before it reaches your meter.

The following week remained cold, and though the street ice melted in the afternoon sun, it re-formed again at night, and bare pavement never showed through. Four times, people walking by rang our bell to tell us about the gas odor. Then came a warmer morning. In a puddle over a metal plate reading G\*A\*S, bubbles were clearly escaping.

I called the utility again on the special "Smell Gas" line and gave all my info for a second time.

Operator: So you smell gas?

Me: That's right.

Operator: Is it light, medium, or heavy?

Me: Well, let me just say that five people have rung my bell to say they smell it.

Operator: OK... light.

I guess it's because we live in such a litigious society that the worker who came out to re-inspect the situation climbed down from his truck, sniffed the air, and said he didn't notice anything. As I had maneuvered him atop the metal plate I simply told him to step aside.

"Oh," he said, looking down. "Yes, I smell it now."

Two trucks, four men, and one hour later, the leaking valve was fixed.

Dan Marsh

#### Still Green!

Our angel for the May banner is the Gunars and Kerri Platais family from way off Costa Rica. They will be home for some of the time this summer before they have to return there. We thank them for their thoughtfulness. If you care to donate from \$25 to \$37 to pay for the green ink of an issue, please send your check made out to the Citizens Association to Box 98, and I'll add you to our donor list. We are currently paid up until March 2005, but would love to get the rest of the year covered. Thanks.

Mary Moyer

#### Remarkable... Unbelievable...

Impossible... But true! The GPFS is excited to present "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen," on Friday, June 18. It's a fantastic tale of an 18th century aristocrat's efforts to save a town from defeat. Being swallowed by a giant sea-monster, riding cannonballs, a visit with the King and Queen of the moon, a dance with Venus, and an escape from the Grim Reaper are only some of the improbable adventures. Marvel at the Baron's companions, including the fastest and strongest men alive, a man with the greatest vision, and another with the most amazing hearing and the most powerful lungs! The film is directed by Monty Python alumnus Terry Gilliam and, like most Pythonian tales, is great for kids and even more wonderful for adults. With appearances by John Neville, Eric Idle, Robin Williams, Uma Thurman, Oliver Reed, and Sting.

The world, says the Baron, "is made of laws now. Laws of hydraulics, laws of social dynamics, laws of this, that, and the other. No place for three-legged Cyclops in the South Seas. No place for cucumber trees and oceans of wine. No place for me." We beg to differ. Sometimes, the world just needs reminding. If you're big on realism, pass this one by. But if you want to exercise your sense of wonder and see a fairy tale for all ages, be sure to bring your imagination and your pillow to Town Hall, Friday, June 18, 2004, at 8 pm. (Treats and drinks served at 7:30.) Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family at the door (GPFS members admitted free).

Jack Mandel

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